open cast mining projects for which assistance from the World Bank has been sought. May I know from the Minister for how many units, World Bank assistance has been sought for underground mining and for open cast mining? Secondly, has the World Bank imposed any conditionalities regarding the manpower planning and closing down of some of the uneconomic mines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): There are three categories. One is the improvement of 34 mines, for which assessment and project profiles have been made. That is why I have given the information on that. The additional amount required for this purpose is Rs. 425 crore, out of which, we have sought assistance from the World Bank to the tune of Rs. 115 crores. The second category is about the open cast mines to which the hon. Member has now referred. The proposal has gone but we have not received any reaction from the World Bank. That is why I have not mentioned it here. In this category, we have three open cast mines, viz. (1) KDHesalong Open Cast Mine, (2) Dedhichua Phase II and (3) Jambad Open Cast Mine. The fourth one is a proposal for fighting the Jharia underground fire. This is the second category as far as CIL is concerned.

We have a third category seeking for World Bank assistance for Neyveli where we have got five projects. There is no conditionality as such but when the World Bank gives us the loan they give us a particular time schedule for implementation. That is the only thing.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Assistance to Small Scale Units

*311 SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD:

SHRI M.V. CHANDRA SHEKARA MURTHY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the union Government propose to provide any assistance for the development of small scale units and for technological upgradation to improve quality of their goods;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of small scale units to which the Union Government have provided assistance during the last three years for technological upgradation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. P. J. KURIEN) (a) and (b). Policy measure for promoting and strengthening small tiny and village enterprises laid in Parliament on 6.8.91 are intended to impart more vitality and growth impetus to small scale units including productivity, quality improvement and technology upgradation.

(c) The total number of technical consultancy services and testing facilities provided by Small industries Development Organisation (SIDO) during the last three years (1988-89 to 1990-91) are 2,31,761 and 2,13,839 respectively.

Exploitation of Metal Nodules

*314. DR. R. MALLU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had launched a project for exploitation of metal nodules in our seas; and

(b) if so, the results obtained and the expenditure incurred so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Consistent efforts in the field of survey and exploration have led to the allotment of a mine site measuring 150,000 sq. km. to India in the Central Indian Ocean Basin in August 1987 by the International Seabed Authority. Information has also been obtained on the abundance and grades of nodules and the topography of the seabed. R&D in extractive metallurgy has resulted in process development on a laboratory scale which will now be tested on a pilot scale. The development of a low volume mining system is also nearing completion. The expenditure on the programme, since 1981, has been about Rs. 40.00 crore.

[*Translation*]

Ration Cards to Residents of Jhuggi Jhonpri colonies

*316. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of ration cards issued in Delhi during 1991-92;

(b) whether all the residents of new Jhonpri colonies that came up after January, 1990 have been covered;

(c) whether the quota of the ration has been reduced while the number of ration card-holders has increased; and

(d) the manner in which increased number of card-holders are proposed to be provided ration out of inadequate quantity being supplied as at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) to (d). During April 1991 to February 1992 Delhi Administration has reported that over 2.75 lakh ration cards were issued. This includes 66,304 cards issued to residents of Jhuggi Jhonpri Colonies, since 16th December 1991. Under the present instructions of Delhi Administration no cut-off date has been prescribed for entertaining applications from the residents of Jhuggi Jhonpri Colonies. It has now been decided that issue of ration cards in jhuggis shall be a continuous process at par with the scheme of issue of cards in other parts of the city.

The allocation of PDS commodities is made by the Central Government on a month to month basis taking into account stocks in Central Pool, market availability and inter-se requirements of States/UTs. The allocation of PDS commodities is supplemental in nature and is not intended to meet the entire requirements of any State/UT.

Delhi Administration has indicated that while making distribution of foodgrains, efforts are made to ensure that persons living in jhuggi/resettlement colonies get a minimum of 8 kg. of wheat per adult per month.

'No Industry Districts' in Rajasthan

*317. SHRI KUNJEE LAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the districts of Rajasthan which have been included in the list of 'no industry districts';

(b) whether the Union Government propose to set up industrial units in these districts;

(c) if so, the time by which these industrial units are likely to be set up; and